

**RIDESHARE** from cover

..... provide service.”

Reyes urged anyone with information related to the incident to contact the Bridgeport Police Department.

Public Safety is in communication with local law enforcement and will be looking out for the vehicle, along with using the school’s license plate readers. When a plate number is entered into the system, Public Safety is notified whenever said vehicle enters campus.

While Public Safety takes precautions on campus, Reyes noted that students must be “prudent” as well. This includes things like confirming the driver matches who is registered on the app, confirming the plate and remaining aware during the ride.

In his email, Reyes reminded students of the safety measures — in addition to confirming the driver — they should be taking when using those services, like Uber or Lyft.

“Share your trip details with a trusted

friend or family member... Sit in the back seat and remain aware of your surroundings... If something feels unsafe, trust your instincts and exit the situation if possible,” Reyes wrote.

For some students, the email came as a surprise as the topic is not frequently discussed on campus.

“I wasn’t really expecting it for Uber, because you don’t really hear much about that here,” sophomore marketing major Ashley Witkowski said.

Witkowski notes that both students and Public Safety should be responsible for practicing safety in regard to rideshare services.

“I think students should probably be more aware...But then Public Safety should also be on it with seeing who is allowed into the campus as well,” Witkowski said.

In the fall, Quinnipiac updated its designated rideshare pick up/drop off location. Students were told to only send drivers to the North Lot because each vehicle must enter

through a gate monitored by Public Safety.

“That way they’re being picked up and dropped off inside of our campus, as opposed to on the street,” Reyes said. “As opposed to somewhere on Mount Carmel (Ave.), you know, some area that does not have as much presence and there are no officers.”

This is not the first incident in a rideshare service by far. Recently Uber in particular, has been under fire for the revealed thousands of reported incidents.

In August 2025, The New York Times reporter Emily Steel uncovered that between 2017 and 2022 “a total of 400,181 Uber trips resulted in reports of sexual assault and sexual misconduct in the United States.”

Uber’s 2021-22 Annual Safety Report is the most recent report available.

Before Steel’s investigation, Uber disclosed 12,522 accounts of serious sexual assaults in that time frame. On average, “Uber received a report of sexual assault or sexual misconduct in the U.S. almost every eight

minutes,” according to Steel.

The investigation led to the launch of the New York Times’ “Every 8 Minutes” campaign, spearheaded by Steel, aimed to draw attention to sexual assaults during Uber services.

In addition to Uber, students also commonly use the rideshare service Lyft. In their most recent report, detailing 2021-22, there were “2,651 instances of the five most serious categories of sexual assault — a 21% decrease in incident frequency rate from our previous report.”

All this to say, that as rideshare services are commonly used by Quinnipiac students, Reyes reminds them that safety measures must be taken while using those services. Students are encouraged to take precaution, stay alert and trust their instincts.

“Take any measures to get yourself out of that situation as soon as you can,” Reyes said.

# Beloved Professor Emeritus Joe Woods dies

By AVA HIGHLAND  
News Editor

Quinnipiac University Professor Emeritus Joe Woods died peacefully in his home March 12, according to his obituary. Woods was 82 and worked at Quinnipiac for 51 years, until he retired in 2022.

In 1970, Woods came to Quinnipiac as an assistant professor of biology. Woods was later appointed as the chair of the Department of Biology, which he served for three years, and was the dean of the School of Health Sciences for 18 years.

Woods attended St. Joseph’s University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology and later got his PhD in Physiology from Rutgers University.

Even having left the university several years ago, his impact still remains in the community.

As a physical therapy student, Maureen Helgren became “captivated by physiology largely because of him,” she wrote to The Chronicle.

Helgren is now the Director of Anatomy and Associate Professor of Medical Sciences. First as her professor, Woods later became her colleague, friend and lifelong mentor.

“Without his guidance, I may never have pursued a PhD, discovered my love of research, returned to Quinnipiac or had the privilege of serving under one of the kindest deans I have ever known,” Helgren wrote.

Woods’ impact still remains with Helgren.

“I often found myself wandering outside Echlin, following the familiar scent of his pipe, just to stop and talk with him,” Helgren wrote. “His warm, infectious smile is imprinted on my heart; not only because he was a brilliant leader, but because he was, above all, a genuinely kind and generous man.”

Woods has been previously honored for his dedication at Quinnipiac with the “Joseph J. Woods, PhD, Athletic Training/Sports Medicine Outstanding Student Award” being named after him — a decision that was “easy and fitting,” Stephen Straub, associate dean of Academic Operations and Finance and professor of Health and Exercise Science, wrote to The Chronicle.

Straub highlighted that Woods was “instrumental” in the set-up of Quinnipiac’s athletic training education program, around core

values in ensuring excellence for students.

Straub worked under and later alongside Woods for over 20 years.

“As he served as a mentor to me, I would seek his ideas and advice,” Straub wrote. “No matter the issue he always came back to those two themes: Can we enact that project in an excellent fashion? And how will it impact our students?”

Woods’ influence in the Quinnipiac and local communities went beyond his love of teaching as well. He held a tradition of dressing in a handmaid Santa Claus outfit each year as a member of the Cheshire community.

“His energy and passion in his character brightened up each holiday gathering,” his obituary reads.

In 2017, Woods delivered an assortment of gifts to children at the Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences on Quinnipiac’s North Haven Campus.

“It’s just something I love doing,” Woods told Quinnipiac Today. “I love their faces.”

Woods left an impact on many members of the Quinnipiac community that has



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

**Quinnipiac University professor emeritus Joe Woods died peacefully in his home March 12.**

shown to not be, and will not be, forgotten.

“He left us with such fond memories and has touched so many lives,” Helgren wrote. “Once again, thank you Joe.”

**DSU** from cover

..... Armendariz is fairly new to Quinnipiac and is still navigating what the school does well and what it doesn’t.

“It’s really coming upon you helping us find where we’re not meeting our legal obligations or a moral obligation,” Armendariz said.

The discussion also touched on several different areas of concern for students, including consistency, transparency, parking spaces, housing accommodations, faculty training, as well as suggested procedures.

In particular, Armendariz cited that Quinnipiac complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act’s requirements for accessible parking spaces, but it still might not be enough. This occurs in instances like students using those spaces without a permit, or snow being plowed into the spots.

In the past, students have drawn attention to residence halls that lack accessibility, like dorms that don’t have elevators for example. This concern was brought up again during the open discussion.

Czepiga explained that things like putting elevators into old buildings goes beyond OSA, but they work to help students as best they can when housing barriers arise.

Some students in the audience also shared personal stories regarding barriers

they’ve faced on campus.

Scarlett Fulton, a first-year law in society and political science major, addressed “discriminatory culture of... students to each other” in regard to non-visible disabilities.

“It’s been a constant struggle, how do you get people to be cognizant and respectful of other people, whether it’s dis-

ability, race, gender identity, whatever it is, we constantly have that challenge,” Armendariz said. “...It’s something that we talked about. How do we, for you as young adults, start to make you aware of these things and how to be more respectful towards each other.”

Fulton suggested education or programs



LAYNIE CLARK/CHRONICLE

**Attendees engaged in an open discussion with the panelists, sharing different experiences regarding accessibility on campus and asking questions.**

for students to better understand disabilities.

Adding on to Fulton’s point, Victor Constanza, a junior behavioral neuroscience major, raised the issue of some professors not being understanding of a student’s academic accommodation.

“I had a lab professor who said something like, ‘I don’t believe in an accommodation extension,’” Constanza said. “... That just tells me that the person doesn’t even know what the disorders are even like, how they work.”

Czepiga explained that professors do go through training with OSA. However, if problems still arise, students should bring them to OSA for more measures to be taken.

DSU’s secretary and junior psychology major Delilah Papka drew attention to accessibility on the York Hill Campus.

“I feel like York, when it comes to not just accessibility, but also safety for some students, it isn’t treated the same as main campus,” Papka said.

Papka called for more monitoring by the university in regard to accessibility and safety.

The discussion overall, largely centered around the need for advocacy to make change.

“Progress may not happen overnight, but progress requires commitment, and commitment begins with conversations like this,” Colciaghi said.